

Anna Winskill  
462 Haines Rd  
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

June 3, 2004

To The Honorable Judge Posner,

I met Richard Sitcha over a year ago now during my junior year at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. Richard invited myself and Andrew Cohen to his apartment for some great West African food and dancing in the company of many of his good friends. Richard bent over backwards to make us feel comfortable and it was a great pleasure to discuss politics and my own experience living in West Africa for four months.

I believe Richard's innocence despite accusations that he has committed asylum fraud. I believe this not only because my friendship with him has proven him to be of great character, but also because of the undisputed fact that human rights abuse is practiced in Cameroon. People in Cameroon who vouched for Richard's noble behavior in the Bapenda-9 incident may be likely to now fear for their own safety.

Two leading Human Rights Organizations: Amnesty International and Freedom House, both indicate in recent reports that human rights abuses are on the rise in Cameroon. Freedom House described the Paul Biya regime as one of the most repressive in the world. Opposition parties and other dissidents are brutally repressed, as Richard can explain to you himself through his own prison stories. The UN Committee against Torture expresses grave concern about systematic torture by police after the arrest of suspects. For more information please refer to Amnesty International's 2004 report: <http://web.amnesty.org/report2004/cmr-summary-eng>

By supporting an emigrant who has opposed the Cameroonian government, Richard's contacts in Cameroon put themselves at great risk which might explain muted support for Richard. Richard is no criminal~ not in Cameroon, nor in the States. Thank you for your time.

Signed under the penalties of perjury,



Anna Winskill

p.s. I am more than willing to testify in court on behalf of Richard Sitcha.

Romance Languages and Literatures  
300 High Street  
Middletown, Connecticut 06459-0083  
(860) 685-2830 FAX: (860) 685-2831



Sitcha Richard  
Franklin County House of Correction  
160 Elm St.  
Greenfield, MA 01301-2211

May 3, 2004

Dear Richard,

This is a copy of the letters sent to the directors of the Homeland Security Departments, Edward A. Flynn (MA) and Major John Buturla (CT), Judge Michael Straus, attorneys Leigh Mapplebeck and James Robinson, and CT district attorney for Hartford, Kevin O'Connor. Bonne chance!

The French Studies section of the Romance Languages and Literatures Department at Wesleyan University writes this letter in support of Richard Sitcha (A95-461-653).

Since the spring 2002, Mr. Sitcha has been a member of the greater Wesleyan community. His first contact with our department was through Andrew Cohen, a French Studies major who graduated in May 2003. Richard facilitated Andrew's contact with a Francophone African community living in Hartford, Connecticut. Andrew's field research within this community, during the 2002-2003 academic year, served as the basis for a chapter of his Senior Honors Thesis, "From Cameroon to Connecticut: Ethnicity, Community, and Development."

As a political refugee from Francophone Cameroon who had been granted asylum by the United States, Mr. Sitcha offered a unique view of Cameroonian culture and politics. On April 16, 2003, the French Section of our department invited Mr. Sitcha to give a guest lecture chronicling the events and circumstances, which led him to come to the United States seeking asylum. The event was well attended, and subsequently, many other students in the French Studies major have sought out Mr. Sitcha as a resource on Francophone African culture and politics.

Unfortunately, due to Mr. Sitcha's incarceration, he has been unavailable to come back to give another lecture during the 2003-2004 academic year. We sincerely hope that he will be able to join us again in the near future.

Richard Sitcha has been a wonderful community member and a key resource for the students in our department. We have followed the details of his case, and support Mr. Sitcha in his pursuit of freedom and justice.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Rider, Department Chair

Catherine Ostrow, Adjunct Lecturer

Catherine Poisson, Associate Professor

January, 24, 2004  
820 Park St. Hartford, CT. 06106

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW  
IMMIGRATION COURT  
450 MAIN ST. ROOM 509  
HARTFORD, CT 06103-3015

In the Matter of:  
SITCHA RICHARD

Case No.: A 95-461-653  
Docket: HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

To the JUDGE OF IMMIGRATION:

We the Parishioners of Ste Anne-Immaculate Conception Church, Inc. in Hartford Connecticut, Friends, and acquaintances of Richard Sitcha would like you to consider either lowering his bond of \$40,000.00 or better yet releasing him until his appeal is heard.

In the three years since we have known him, he has been an active member of our parish, assisting as leader, lector and cantor at our 8:30 A.M. French Mass and helping in other parish activities.

In addition, he has also been willing to share his knowledge of the African Culture. This was best demonstrated by his helping a student from Wesleyan with his thesis on Africa. Furthermore, he did a presentation on April 22, 2003 at Wesleyan University and was suppose to be doing another presentation in January of this year.

Unfortunately, because he is imprisoned, his Parish, friends, acquaintances, students, are being deprived of his presence.

We find it incomprehensible that a human being , who is seeking political asylum can be put into prison, when he has done nothing wrong.

Although we are unable to come up with the amount of the bond, we want to show our moral support. Richard is a hard worker, conscientious, eager to help whether it be by service, or financial donations (even though he has limited means). We unequivocally believe that Richard presents no risk to Society, only good things happen when he is around.

He had to flee his country, because he revealed the truth about 9 innocent people (The Bepanda 9) who were executed by members of the Cameroon Task Force. He loves his country and only fled because his life was endangered. If a new government came into power, he would return home.

He came here seeking Asylum. Instead he has been put into prison with regular criminals. He had committed no crime in his own country, unless you consider whistleblowing a crime. He arrived here legally and has not committed any crime here either. Neither Richard nor we, his fellow parishioners and friends of his can understand how he can be imprisoned while awaiting his appeal. Even President Bush has requested that Immigrants who have come here even illegally and have done nothing wrong be free. While Richard who arrived legally and has done nothing wrong is being held. In addition to which his Bond is set higher than those given for some major crimes. It is only since the end of November that anyone was finally allowed to visit him a period of two months isolated from friends and those of us who consider him to be family. (since his real family is still in the Cameroon).

Back then , the hope that he would soon be released and his strong faith helped him survive this experience of loneliness, of confusion, and of bewilderment of a system

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that he does not completely understand.

If the Pilot program were being practiced as described in the Hartford Courant Newspaper back in September, namely that the Immigrants were to be held in a special facility separate from criminals, his imprisonment while still not just, or understandable could be better tolerated. However now that more than four months have passed, with no freedom in sight, and subjected to threats by criminals who are imprisoned at the same facility, his courage has failed.

Therefore we, the Parishioners of Ste Anne-Immaculate Conception Church, his friends and acquaintances beg you to consider our request so that a greater tragedy will not result.

We also ask you to consider these factors:

- A) that Richard Sitcha has been incarcerated and isolated from family and friends.
- B) that three of the Witnesses who had submitted notarized letters concerning Richard's case were fearful to corroborate their letters when questioned by phone, by someone claiming to be working for the U.S. Embassy. (He may in fact have been but since all communication was by phone, they had no way of proving it),
- C) His bond is disproportionately high, especially considering that even persons convicted of serious crimes have been granted lower bonds;
- D) Because of his incarceration he has been unable to contribute to his own defense in the preparation of his appeal, especially because he has been unable to contact people in the Cameroon who can substantiate the truth of his testimony.

Therefore we respectfully request that he be released on his own recognizance; if you do not consider this feasible, please consider lowering his bond so that we would be able to raise the necessary amount.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope that Richard will soon be in our midst again.

Requested by the following Parishioners of Saint Anne-Immaculate Conception and other friends and acquaintances of Richard Sitcha.

PRINT NAME

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

LORENA D. DOTELLE	1000 MISTY MEADOW SO WINDSOR CT	Lorena D. Dotelle
Rose Veilleux	230 Putman St. Hartford	Rose Veilleux
Jean G. Cyr	19 Columbia St. Hartford	Jean G. Cyr
Rita Faro Chille	25 John St E-Hilltop	Rita Faro Chille
Chislain Lapochelle	25 John St E-Hilltop	Chislain Lapochelle
TRINO RINGUETTE	22 MITCHELL ST	Trino Ringuette
REV. PAUL F. KEEFEICK	194 N. BRITAIN AVE	Paul F. Keefeick
BRIDGET DE NOVA CASTRO	33 E WOODHAVEN DR AVON	Brigid de Nova Castro
JEAN AGBA	276 Collins St # 102	Jean AGBA
Abidi Tchadre	- II -	Abidi Tchadre
Komi MABLE	- II -	Komi MABLE
Seyram MABLE	- II -	Seyram MABLE

Additional Signatures Regarding request for Richard Sitcha's Release  
Case No. A95-461-653 Docket Hartford, Connecticut

PRINT NAME

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

Albert J. Marconc 27 Broadwell St., Wethersfield, CT 06111 Albert J. Marconc  
 LUCILLE McALLISTER 118 Levesque Ave. Whitehall, CT 06110 Lucille McAllister  
 DONALD McALLISTER 118 Levesque Ave. Whitehall, CT 06110 Donald McAllister  
 ROLAND L. FAUCHIER 117 Bouley St. Apt. 101, Hartford, CT 06104 Roland Fauchier  
 Kongolo Tshikula 43 Franklin Av. Stamford, CT  
 DOROTHY POUYIER 54 Ledge St. HARTFORD, CT Dorothy Pouyier  
 ROGER VALLEIRAND 134 Elmwood St. Whitehall, CT Roger Valleirand  
 ERNESTINE VALLEIRAND 134 Elmwood St. Whitehall, CT Ernestine Valleirand  
 PAT LABRIE P.O. Box 260321 Hartford, CT 06126 Pat Labrie  
 Rev. James Lowery, M.S. - 320 Park St. - Hartford, CT 06106 Rev. James Lowery  
 Alourdes Breydy 120 Main St. Manchester, CT Malvina Levesque  
 Malvina Levesque, 146 Main St. Manchester, CT Malvina Levesque  
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HELENA N. DUTELLE 92 AVONDALE RD MANCHESTER, CT Helena N. Dutelle  
 Sophia Powell 92 Avondale Rd MANCHESTER, CT 06040 S. Powell  
 MARY ELLEN LEROUX CRESTFIELD REHABILITATION 565 VERNON ST. MANCHESTER, CT 06040 Mary Ellen Leroux  
 PETER MIHALY 772 ATKINS ST. MIDDLEBURY, CT Peter Mihaly  
 Rose Canarie 39 Heather New Britain, CT Rose Canarie  
 Cindy Moekel 41 Meadow Farms West Hartford, CT Cindy Moekel  
 N. Baye 3 Salisbury St. (P.O. Box) Nicolas Baye  
 Se Alys Penfors 230 Blueberry Hill, Stree Hartford, CT  
 Mihose Antoine 26 Chadwick Ave Hartford, CT Mihose Antoine

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PRINT NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
JEAN CLAUDE SEVERE	P.O. Box 320511 HARTFORD CT 06132	
CLERCY DELILLE	2943 Pleasant St Hartford CT 06116	
MARIE F TARTE	73 Yammer St Hartford CT 06106	
WILLIAM BOURJOGY	Po Box 280039 HARTFORD CT 06128	
MARIE F. BOYER	3 SALISBURY ST. HARTFORD CT 06102	
NANCY DUPHREZIN	565 BROADVIEW TERR HARTFORD CT 06106	
Rosy LEGROS	565 BROADVIEW TERR NORFOLK CT 06106	
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Hannum & Antoine	26 Chapel St. APP HARTFORD CT 06106	
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Aurele Maras	112 CATHERINE HARTFORD CT 06106	
Chris Poland	439 Lummus HARTFORD CT 06106	
Maria P. Palubinski	439 Lummus HARTFORD CT 06106	
Jeanette Celani	415 QUIRE ST. HARTFORD CT 06106	
Noella M Daigle	68 Elm DR COLCHESTER CT 06415	
Deoniceen Feliciano	160 Flatbush Ave HARTFORD CT 06106	
Karl Leoon	1000 Misty Meadow Ln. SOUTH WINDSOR CT 06051	
Maryjane Petru Rado	31 (1) Holland St. HARTFORD CT 06105	
AGATHA DENAULT	19 NEWGATE ST WEST HARTFORD CT 06106	
Sandra Toledo	P.O. Box 261221 Hartford, CT 06122	
TOKI-ORRELLITE	22 Wallace St. West HARTFORD CT 06106	

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Case No. A95-461-653 Docket Hartford, Connecticut

PRINT NAME

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

MARY SCANLON	124 Putnam St	Mary Scanlon
Dolores Torres	46 Lenox	Dolores Torres
Madeline Ouellette	92 Willow St.	Madeline Ouellette
MARY YANNELLI	47 Spring St.	Mary Yannelli
Ana C. Rivera	1136 Broad St	Ana C. Rivera
Petaweston TOWER	46 Lenox St	Petaweston TOWER
SISTER JEAN CARROLL	102 Putnam St	Sister Jean Carroll
Sister Nancy McNamee	102 Putnam St.	Sister Nancy McNamee
Evelyn Reyes	166 Monroe Ct	Evelyn Reyes
Victor Reyes	106 Monroe Ct	Victor Reyes
Heather Ginge	218 E. Middle Trke, Manchester, CT 06040	
Janet Seigny	45 Forster St. HFD, CT	Janet Seigny
Rene Seigny	45 Forster St. HFD, CT	Rene Seigny
FRANCIS OUELLETTE	104 Putnam St. HFD, CT	Francis Ouellette
Julio MATURANA	9 GINGER DR WESTHAMPTON, CT	Julio Maturana
MIGUEL NUÑEZ	43 Arnold St	Miguel Nuñez
Yolanda Cedric	510 Broad St	Yolanda Cedric
Antonia Rodriguez	518 Broad St	Antonia Rodriguez
Martin Vega	90 Lincoln St.	Martin Vega
Ema J. Davis	857 Lincoln St.	
Rosa L. Coe	26 Lark St #3	Rosa L. Coe
Maria Garcia	15 Clermont St	Maria Garcia
Nereida Vasquez	15 Clermont St	Nereida Vasquez
Maria Bonan	10 Francis W HFD	Maria Bonan
Santiago Viegilla	10 Kane St. W HFD	Santiago Viegilla